MAHAWELI REACH
SRI LANKA

The GREEN DIRECTORY

MAHAWELI REACH HOTELS PLC

KANDY – SRI LANKA

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MRH is active in many facets of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The purpose of this publication is to document some of our work in the sphere of environmental and community activities. We hope this will be useful to our guests, tour operators, students and the media to understand better some of the work in which we are engaged.

Some of our informed and conscious decisions are not readily apparent. For example, it may not be evident that a hotel has asked suppliers to reduce unnecessary packaging, had switched to energy efficient lights or had an active program of always striving to reduce wastage, promptly replacing leaking taps etc.

We are in the process of engaging in a series of on-going training programs to educate our staff on environmental best practices.

Implementation by MRH and what is seen here is only a snapshot in time, of a continuous process, of striving for excellence and serving the community to discharge our responsibilities as a responsible corporate citizen of Sri Lanka.

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Majestic architecture
Appealing character
Homely environment
Alluring surroundings
Welcoming nature
Elegant setting
Luxurious features
Indigenous brand
Radiant people
Epicurean delights
Accessible location
Culture and traditions
Heartwarming hospitality

The MRH Vision

To make ourselves the cynosure of the industry, through dedication that goes above and beyond the boundaries of duty

The MRH Mission

To foster continuing excellence in service, through the nurturing of teamwork and total commitment among our staff thus inspiring them to reach greater heights

Our Goals

To nurture caring, personalized service that makes every guest feel special

To maintain and increase financial stability through growth and maximize shareholder returns

To be the source of motivation to our employees and in turn, recognize and reward their efforts

MRH Commitment

At MRH

We are committed to conserve and responsibly manage our natural resources by implementing proactive measures to minimize our impact on the environment,
whilst positively contributing to the community in which we operate and maintaining the quality of service expected by our guests

MRH Environmental Policy

Monitor performance and aim for continued improvement by minimizing the use of energy, water and through proper waste management.

Carry out continuous awareness programmes, amongst staff and guests to ensure total commitment to the environment.

We strive to purchase environmentally friendly equipment and resources from our suppliers.

We commit to making wide ranging social contributions in close partnership with local communities by supporting environment conservation initiatives.

Comply with relevant environmental legislation and other requirements with a proactive approach towards fulfilling our obligations as an environmentally responsible organization.

Demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement and prevent environmental pollution.

Introduction

'Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed' - Mahatma Gandhi

Mother nature has bestowed invaluable treasures in the form of natural resources upon the humans inhabiting earth. The nearly seven billion people obtain all basic amenities such as food, clean water, clothing and shelter from the environment.

The growing population is creating greater stress on the fragile eco systems which support the very fabric of life on this planet. Further people are yet to fully realize the damage being caused by the over use and unnecessary exploitation of natural resources. Maintaining the diversity of flora and fauna, the percentage of green cover in the world and using resources such as fossil fuels in a responsible manner are imperative for the future of the planet.

Currently the need to preserve existing resources is reaching critical levels. Both globally and in our own country provision of energy and clean water to the population is becoming difficult. Carbon dioxide levels are increasing, contributing to climate change which is having disastrous effects on agriculture, water tables and the environment in general. The use of non-biodegradable products such as plastic is causing severe problems as disposal of these items is contributing towards creating its own environmental issues.

Every human being through their habits and consumption is contributing towards these environmental issues and therefore the need to create an environmental consciousness and increase awareness of the need to preserve these precious natural resources is becoming increasingly apparent.

The tourism industry also places heavy stresses on the environment through greater consumption and waste and as responsible citizens it is necessary to take all possible steps to reduce waste, control consumption and entrench sustainable, environmentally friendly practices in all spheres of operations.

At Mahaweli Reach, it is a constant endeavor to improve and develop our operational procedures to inculcate environmentally friendly practices which encourage sustainable use of nature's gifts to humanity.

'We have not inherited this earth from our parents to do with it what we will. We have borrowed it from our children and we must be careful to use it in their interests as well as our own.' - Moses Cass

WEERAKOON MAWATHA
KANDY

MRH: Elegant & Heart Warming Hospitality

The history of MRH dates back to 1973, when Atul Panabokke a tea planter by profession together with his wife and three sons, Jayantha, Mohan & Dihan, commenced this venture from its humble beginnings as an ancestral home converted into a four-roomed guest house. It is now a 112 roomed five-star hotel. A venture which has had a presence of over four decades in the hospitality industry, MRH has proven itself as a pioneer in the field. The challenge of this renewal was masterfully under taken by Mr Ashley De Vos a renowned architect.

Situated on the "reach" of the Mahaweli river being the straight stretch of water between two bends, amidst lush tropical gardens the MRH epitomizes luxury. With unparalleled views of the river, mountain ranges or tropical garden the accommodation provided at MRH contains 108 deluxe rooms and 3 executive suites and a presidential suite. The gardens are filled with tropical vegetation and medicinal plants. The tranquil ambience combines to provide relaxation for the body, mind and soul, in tune with the environment. MRH practices responsible environmental management that reduces, reuses and recycles natural resources. To this end, sound practices of energy and water conservation, air quality management and pollution reduction, use of environmentally friendly resources, recycling, and environmentally friendly purchasing, in keeping with existing laws and regulations, have been introduced. Regular awareness programmes for guests are carried out and the need for involving local communities in these efforts are recognized

The dining options are unique. While providing international cuisine at the Uyana restaurant, MRH also, offers champagne breakfasts on board our motor boat or candle lit dining under the stars by the pier. The Tamarind Bar Lounge allows guests to enjoy the cool evening breeze by the pool side, along with an assortment of whiskeys, liqueurs, aperitifs, beer, cocktails, mocktails & juices. Special theme nights, cultural shows and incentive parties could be organized on request. The Hotel's professional staff ensures that requests relating to Conferences & Banquets are met with attention to detail, powered by the state-of-the-art facilities and sophisticated audiovisual equipment, making business decisions and entertainment a smooth affair.

Amongst the other facilities available are the luxurious Spa - Spa Ceylon for an indulgent treat to the senses, a fully equipped gym & Business centre. Tennis, table tennis, pool, billiards & snooker, swimming and other indoor games too are options. MRH also arranges sightseeing excursions to several sites of interest which are within easy reach due to Kandy's strategic location and golf at the scenic Victoria Golf Course. It is also a romantic getaway, for a charming riverside reverie.

Developing in stages over these last forty years, MRH has continued to innovate and adapt to the changes in its operating environment. Throughout its history, one of the organization's primary concerns have been to anticipate its client's needs and provide service of the highest standards in a manner which addresses these requirements.

The food and beverage offerings at MRH have continued to be in high demand among both local and foreign clientele and the hotel ensures that its menus are frequently changed and developed to meet the needs of its customers. The hotel firmly believes in providing service of the highest standard and therefore, engages in constant training of staff in order to maintain standards and retain its status as one of the premier leisure resorts of the hill capital.

Recognizing the need to create value addition for our customers, MRH launched a series of outlets in and around the suburbs of Kandy in order to facilitate access to food and beverages of the hotel and the very popular laundry service, Press & Wear, without patrons having to make the trip to the hotel in difficult traffic conditions. At these outlets, namely, Cafe M, which are mingled alongside the Press & Wear Outlets, sweets, savories and hot and cold beverages are available for patrons at attractive prices and with the added convenience of being close to their work place or home. These outlets have increased in popularity and MRH is currently considering increasing the number of locations of these outlets.

MRH remains committed to providing products and services of the highest standard and will continue to innovate and adapt in order to ensure that our patrons receive value and the entrepreneurial vision of its founders which has spawned this venture and their indefatigable efforts which have ensured its current position is taken forward and continuously developed.

The deep commitment to green policies and practices that is inbuilt in MRH as an organization played a vital role at every stage of the reconstruction process, and several initiatives were taken to make the hotel even more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly in its day to day operations.

'This is one of the greatest challenges of our time: to convert ourselves to a type of development that knows how to respect creation.' – Pope Francis

Solahart

KEY TAG
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Energy Conservation

Since 1971, energy consumption had increased by up to 70% and is expected to continue growing by approximately 2% each year. Energy is obtained from multiple sources such as fossil fuels (coal, peat and gas), wood, water, wind and the sun which are all natural resources heavily dependent on nature's regenerative capacity and atmosphere conditions. Excessive use of fossil fuels which generate high levels of carbon dioxide resulting in the increase of temperatures has had a severe impact on all these resources.

Sri Lanka relies heavily on hydro-power which depends on rainfall and the increase in temperatures and resultant climate changes have impacted the monsoonal rains. Inadequate rain in 2001, lead to daily power cuts of up to eight hours a day, which disrupted daily life and the economy. Another power crisis is being predicted in 2018, the repercussions of which could be even greater.

As such energy conservation is essential and should become second nature to all.

Energy Conservation at MRH

A card-key system is in operation in rooms to ensure that lights are not left on when guests are not in their room.

MRH ensures that air conditioning provided is energy-efficient.

A centralized solar thermal hot water system is used to produce hot water for the use of the entire hotel.

Energy-efficient lights are used which prolong usage up to ten times longer than regular bulbs.
Minimum wattage is used on all lights in the hotel, to reduce electricity consumption.

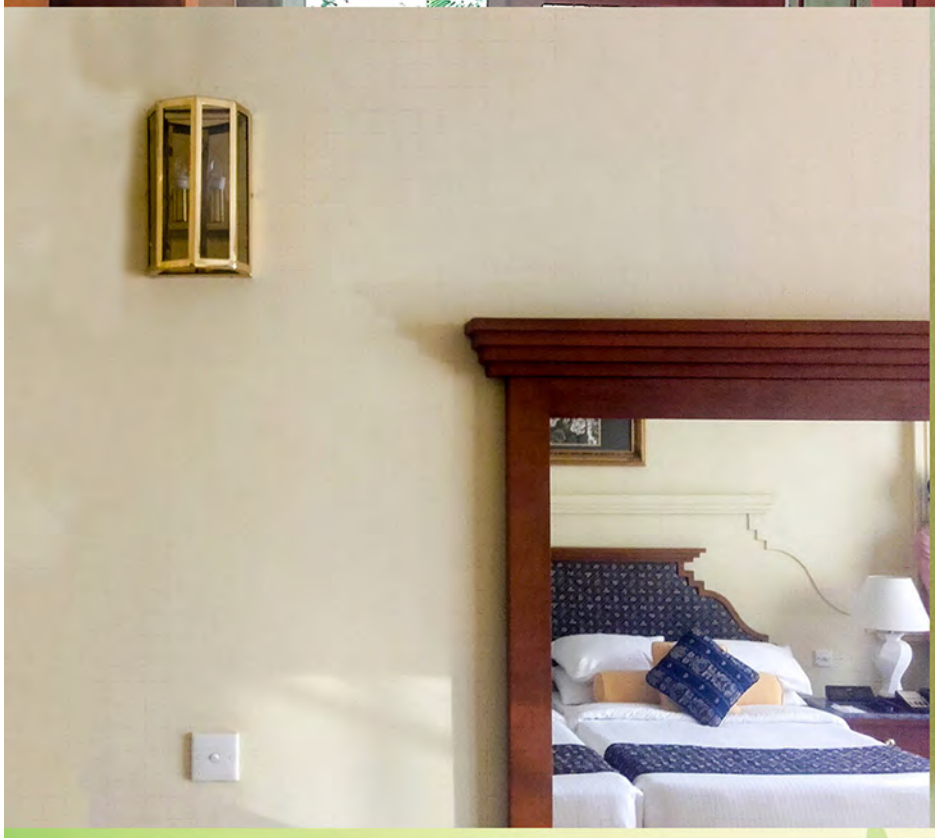
The Hotel design has maximized the use of natural light and ventilation. This significantly reduces the need for artificial lighting during daylight hours. Eighty percent of the restaurant and bar, as well as the reception and lobby area, are designed to be open and spacious, not just to be aesthetically pleasing but to allow maximum light and ventilation. Ceiling fans are used to support natural ventilation.

Energy loss through cold rooms has been reduced through the installation of freezer curtains and opening is monitored by use of schedules that are examined routinely by the Chef.

Daily monitoring of usage of electricity and diesel are carried out.

Staff are trained routinely about energy conservation.

Preventive maintenance is carried out on a planned schedule. During these checks, temperature controls are examined to prevent overheating and over cooling, light fixtures are cleaned and equipment maintained.



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Water Conservation

While water bodies cover a greater part of the earth, two- thirds of these comprise of salt water. Only three percent of the world's water is fresh while two percent of this is trapped in ice. Therefore, only one percent is available for human use.

About 20% of the global population does not have access to safe drinking water and about 50% lacks adequate sanitation. Therefore, about one-third of the world's inhabitants live in areas where water consumption exceeds the renewable fresh water supply and these numbers are continuing to increase.

Pollution of the available water with sewage, industrial effluents, pesticides and fertilizers are further exacerbating the issue.

Fresh water is a precious resource in need of protection.

Water Conservation at MRH

Water storage tanks and taps are checked daily for leakages by a duty technician.

Housekeeping staff have been made aware about the need for vigilance about water leaks in guest rooms.

The staff has been trained to reduce water when rinsing dishes for the dishwasher.

Preventive maintenance is carried out on a planned schedule.

There are water-saving messages placed in the guest rooms regarding bed linen, towels and also in public wash rooms recommending water saving measures.

Water saving devices have been installed in guest room toilets.

500ml plastic water bottles have been inserted into the cisterns in all guest room toilets.

A phased-out plan is being implemented to use treated water from the sewerage treatment plant for gardening and to introduce future measures to reduce water consumption.

'Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can '– Arthur Ashe
'Each and every one of us can make changes in the way we live and become part of the solution' – Al Gore

FILTER FEED
TANK
FLOULENT DOSING
POLYMER DOSING

Waste Water Management

Tourist facilities such as hotels and guest houses generate more sewerage, waste water from kitchens, bathrooms and laundries which in most instances especially in the developing world cause pollution to water bodies such as the sea or surrounding rivers and lakes, thereby causing damage to the environment and posing threats to human health and wellbeing.

It is only now that regulations are being introduced mandating proper disposal of waste generated by hotels and other industrial facilities.

Waste Water Management at MRH

Sewage is treated in a sewage treatment plant (STP).

Bath water & staff waste water are sent to the STP.

A technician has been dedicated to check the STP every day.

Every month, an external company checks the water quality, so that discharged water meets the required standards of the Central Environmental Authority.

Clarified water produced from the STP is used for watering the garden.

Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance '- Ban Ki Moon

Solid Waste Management

Sri Lanka is estimated to generate 0.89 kg per capita per day of municipal solid waste. It is increasingly alarming as dumping grounds are becoming overwhelmed due to the sheer volume of solid waste and the amount of solid waste which is non-degradable. There are mountains being created.

It causes severe environmental issues in addition to becoming breeding grounds for disease carriers including mosquitos and rodents. It contributes towards contaminating water sources and generates methane, a greenhouse gas.

It is imperative that generation of solid waste is minimized and managed effectively. Collection should be separated into degradable and non-degradable materials in order that disposal may be more effective and manageable.

To carry out sustainable solid waste management it is necessary to reduce waste, reuse as many materials as possible and recycle.

Solid waste management therefore, needs to ensure that the generation of waste is,

a) Minimized;
b) Collected effectively (separated into non-degradable and biodegradable waste);
c) Treated; and
d) Disposed of responsibly.

The key to sustainable solid waste management is, therefore to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

Solid Waste Management at MRH

In order to minimize waste,

The use of plastic has been reduced. (See also under section on Use of Environmentally Friendly Materials.) For example, guest laundry is collected in cloth bags and delivered in cane baskets.

The use of plastic straws with cocktails or soft drinks has been reduced.

Use of plastic shopping bags have been reduced in the hotel.
Garbage bags are used only for kitchen wet garbage and use is, therefore minimized.

Office stationary is reused.

We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.' - Aldo Leopold

GLASS
PAPER
PLASTIC
WASTE

For effective separation of waste,

Garbage and trash are separated at their sources of origin in all departments – such as the kitchen, restaurant and bar, housekeeping, linen room, maintenance, stores and guest rooms. In these areas, there are colour-coded garbage bins that separately hold glass and plastic, paper and cardboard, polythene and plastic and wet garbage.

Housekeeping staff have correspondingly colour-coded bags on their trolleys for waste disposal.

All staff have been trained and are monitored in the separation of garbage.

Guests are requested to bring back picnic boxes and plastic water bottles so that they can be disposed of properly.

For treatment and disposal of solid waste,

Garden waste is composted.

Wet garbage is sent to a piggery. (40% of the total garbage)

Plastics, glass, metal and paper are sold for recycling and reusing. (40% of the total garbage)

Approximately 20% of the total garbage is disposed to the municipal trash collectors.

Our Motto at MRH, is

Reduce! Re Use! Recycle!

MRH recycles 80% of its waste. Only 20% of the waste generated is given to the municipal trash collectors.

'The environment and the economy are really both two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves.' – Wangari Maathai

'Try to leave the Earth a better place than when you arrived '– Sidney Sheldon

'The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.' – Richard Rogers

Climate Change, Air Quality Management & Reducing

Air Pollution

The emission of greenhouse gases, namely carbon dioxide, nitro oxide and methane have the very harmful effect of causing global warming. The rising temperatures are resulting in changing weather patterns and rising sea levels due to the glaciers melting. These greenhouse gases are released through daily activities of people as well as industrial emissions.

Further the release of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) which are found in refrigerants, aerosol sprays and solvents are also contributing towards damaging the ozone layer, increasing harmful radiation reaching the earth's atmosphere.

The changing weather patterns are causing more frequent natural disasters such as cyclones and floods or extreme droughts. The rising temperatures and sea levels are threatening fresh water reserves and marine eco systems and even threatening the very existence of islands such as the Maldives.

Climate change and air pollution have far reaching effects on agriculture and almost all human activities.

Reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases and CFC's will at least mitigate the effects of the long term but the damage already caused will have a severe impact for generations to come.

The need to effectively combat climate change is acute and requires all inhabitants of the world to take action to reduce the use and release of these harmful emissions to the atmosphere.

Responding to climate change, air quality management and reduction of air pollution at MRH

The use of pesticides has been drastically reduced and used only in emergencies.

The Pest Control Service uses non-persistent, biodegradable chemicals.

Every year, emission tests are carried out for all the hotel vehicles.

Vehicles and equipment are serviced on a regular schedule to ensure optimum performance and minimum emissions.

Many of the chemicals used in the hotel are environmentally friendly and non-hazardous and cleaning agents that are used are reduced in strength.

Incineration is never used as a means of garbage disposal.

Picnic boxes for guests are made of cardboard, not Styrofoam.

Responding to climate change at MRH: Mitigation

Many energy conservation activities are in place. (See Section on Energy Conservation)

There is an active effort to establish carbon offsets – i. e., planned planting of trees that absorb carbon dioxide (i.e., are carbon sinks). Guests are encouraged to participate in these initiatives and also to plant suitable trees in the premises.

Responding to climate change at MRH: Adaptation

Water Conservation is practiced. (See section under Water Conservation)

Planned reduction, reusing and recycling of solid waste and waste water has been established by the Management. Staff training for this purpose has been carried out. (See relevant sections)

Organic gardening is ongoing on the premises. (See section on Environmental Conscious Gardening)

'Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man.' – Stewart L Udall

Prevention of Chemical Pollution

'Sooner or later, we will have to recognize that the Earth has rights too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans. '– Evo Morales

Chemical pollution of waterways, arable lands and ground water pose serious threats to human and animal health and the environment. Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers or industrial effluents, all have damaging effects. Though most are used with a view to enhancing usefulness to humans, some pesticides are carcinogens, while other chemicals affect even animals or insects beneficial to humans. E.g. bees. They damage food webs and chains and cause irreparable damage to the natural balance of eco systems. Excessive use of fertilizers has a long term detrimental effect since it causes excessive nitrates and phosphates in soil and water and ultimately poisons the land and water.

It has become increasingly important to develop degradable materials for use for these purposes and to reduce the use of non-degradable chemicals since not only are they damaging the environment, they are causing the breeding of chemical resistant strains of pests and weeds.

Measures taken to prevent chemical pollution at MRH

'

A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but bor-rowed from his children. '– John James Audubon

PRESS & WEAR

Use of Environmentally - Friendly Materials

Materials such as plastic, certainly became greatly helpful to humans, vastly improving convenience and cost effectiveness. However, it has resulted in an environmental disaster since these materials take 100-1,000 years to breakdown in the soil.

It is causing grave waste management issues globally. Therefore, most organizations and individuals are changing operating practices and promoting the use of degradable products once again while reducing dependence on non-degradable materials.

The Sri Lankan government policy too has taken account of the growing problem of waste management and is now regulating the use of these materials.

The use of degradable products, those that are energy efficient and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and CFC's is the duty of all citizens who have a responsibility towards preserving the earth for future generations.

Use of environmentally - friendly materials at MRH

Laundry is collected in linen bags and delive cane baskets.

The use of plastic straws has been reduced drastically.

Plastic cutlery and plastic flowers are not used.

Some of the herbs used in the kitchen are organically grown in the hotel garden.

Most of the suppliers deliver purchase in environmentally-friendly wrapping.

Reusable crates are used in purchasing vegetables and fruits.

Wherever possible, the Hotel purchases local goods.

Local suppliers who use environmentally-friendly packaging are used preferentially.

The Purchasing Officer has been trained, is aware of the need for reduction of unnecessary and damaging packaging and therefore is careful.

'We have not inherited this earth from our parents to do with it what we will. We have borrowed it from our children and we must be careful to use it in their interests as well as our own.' - Moses Cass

Improving Health & Environmental Consciousness

Infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cancer are on the rise. The spread of these diseases and environmental factors are inextricably linked.

More sedentary life styles and poor eating habits are contributing to these diseases becoming more common, while poor environmental conservation habits are leading to the sharp rise of breeding grounds for mosquitoes and such disease carriers.

Awareness and consciousness of the necessity to change life styles and habits is becoming more and more important.

Eating healthy foods, farmed organically will not only benefit the person consuming such food, but the environment as well. Ensuring that eating habits do not lead to over-exploitation of certain species is also important.

Maintaining cleanliness in surrounding areas and being conscious of the impact of each individual action will help an entire community to become healthy and protect the environment.

Health & Environmental Consciousness at MRH

Healthy alternatives are provided at meals.

Wherever possible, the Hotel serves organically grown vegetables from the Hotel garden.

Herbal Porridges, fresh fruits and traditional, healthy, Sri Lankan meals are also provided.

Meats of protected species are not served in the Hotel.

Kitchen staff are trained to identify specimens.

The Hotel is HACCP certified in food safety standards. (See overleaf)

'If we do not permit the earth to produce beauty and joy, it will in the end not produce food, either.' – Joseph Wood Krutch

The HACCP Programme at MRH

The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) programme is a systematic approach to identifying and controlling hazards related to the safe cooking and presentation of food.

The first HACCP programme was developed by the Pillsbury Company in response to a request by NASA to provide a safe method of food testing that tested critical points of the entire food production process and was a preventative control system rather than a sampling control system.

The process that Pillsbury developed controlled;

a) The quality of raw materials,
b) The processing system,
c) The environment in which the process occurred,
d) The personnel involved in the process,
e) The storage and distribution systems.

This process is now practiced widely in the hotel industry and is recommended by the joint FAO/WHO food standards programme and Codex Aliment Arius Commission UK as well as by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22000 (which is a worldwide federation of national standard bodies) award its ISO standards to any organization that rigorously follows a HACCP programme.

The MRH has readily embraced the concept and practice of HACCP. This is approved in accordance with the requirements of SLS 1266:2005 concerning the products / processes and facilities described in the authorized schedule. Following the HACCP principles assist the organization to ensure and streamline procedures which contribute towards good environmental practices.

The seven principles of HACCP

Principle 1: Conduct a hazard analysis.
Principle 2: Identify critical control points.
Principle 3: Establish critical limits for each critical control point.
Principle 4: Establish critical control point monitoring requirements.
Principle 5: Establish corrective actions.
Principle 6: Establish record keeping procedures.
Principle 7: Establish procedures for ensuring the HACCP system is working.

Environmentally Conscious Gardening

'he who plants a tree, plants a hope. '- Lucy Larcom

Tourism infrastructure development has had a considerable impact on the environment. Be it coastal areas, mountain areas or places adjacent to waterways, any construction affects its surrounding areas.

By ensuing built infrastructure blends with surrounding areas through planned green areas and gardens, while respecting no-build zones will minimize the impact of construction.

Using gardens with appropriate landscaping will limit soil erosion and pollution and add beauty and versatility to the environment.

Further practicing organic gardening and reducing the use of chemicals will greatly assist in preserving the environment and the delicate eco-systems which depend on the various features such as waterways, flora & fauna.

Environmentally Conscious Gardening at MRH

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Local suppliers who use environmentally-friendly packaging are used preferentially.

The Purchasing Officer has been trained, is aware of the need for reduction of unnecessary and damaging packaging and therefore is careful.

'The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the next best time is today. '- Chinese proverb

Conservation Education and Biodiversity Conservation

Creation of awareness and education is the key to saving our planet. At the United Nations Millennium Summit held in 2000, the enormity of the challenge of mitigating environment related problems were acknowledged. In the same year, the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called for the first-ever international scientific assessment of the health of the world's eco systems, the Millennium Eco System Assessment.

The results of this assessment five years later showed that of 24 eco systems assessed, 15 or 60% are being degraded. The usefulness to humans from those eco systems – such as fisheries, supply of freshwater, water purification, flood control, air quality and climate management and pest control have also been damaged. The five major factors of eco system degradation were identified as;

a) Over-exploitation,
b) Invasive alien species,
c) Habitat destruction and change,
d) Pollution and
e) Climate change.

If unabated, human existence will be threatened, thus the creation of awareness about the current state of the planet and what individuals can do to impress or mitigate these effects about it, as well as conservation education, have become essential facets of good environmental management.

Conservation Education and Biodiversity Conservation at MRH

Nature tours are carried out to create awareness on biodiversity conservation.

Tree planting is carried out in the hotel premises to celebrate special days like World Earth Day, World Environmental Day and National Tree Planting Day etc.

An ongoing program has been initiated by MRH in the past years, whereby together with our guests and staff we commemorate 'World Earth Hour' by lighting candles and saving energy. MRH in a step forward organized a programme with Orange Electricals and educated the staff on the significance of using CFL & LED bulbs and gave them the opportunity to discuss their concerns and benefit from a promotion by Orange Electricals to purchase these bulbs at the hotel premises saving energy for the nation.

The Mahaweli river and the area surrounding the premises are cleaned by MRH on World Environmental Day in a bid to educate & conserve the environment.

'You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.' – Prof Wangan Maathai

'There is simply no issue more important. Conservation is the preservation of human life on earth, and that, above all else, is worth fighting for.' – Rob Stewart, Sharkwater: The Photographs

Corporate Social Responsibility
Involvement in Community Development

At Mahaweli Reach we are very conscious of the impact our operations have on the environment and the community in which we operate. We have always considered contributing positively to our community and environment as a necessary part of being a responsible corporate citizen and have continuously carried out initiatives that assist the Company in achieving these objectives. We endeavor to ensure that our operational processes and stakeholder interactions contribute towards the social good.

We are also firmly committed towards educating and developing the younger generation. We believe that it is only by engaging them that our country could move forward productively.

Presently the Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of the Hotel encompass a wide range of issues, encompassing environmental conservation and community development.

They could be broadly categorized as follows:

Corporate Social Responsibility:

Projects are carried out to assist the communities surrounding MRH. Campaigns are arranged in cleaning up the river and the banks of the Mahaweli in serving the community. Under the MRH initiative to educate youth, young adults, who have just finished school, are being given on the job training in hotel management. Awareness programs are also arranged for the neighboring community on various topics contributing to the community. MRH built a hut for the Railway gateman as an initiative taken in contributing positively to the community and in maintaining a good understanding with the residents of the village and our neighbors. MRH keeps developing the garden area adjoining the Railway Gateman's Hut and we continue to maintain the Mawilmada School Grounds and its surroundings in the vicinity of the hotel. MRH continues to maintain the garden and trees planted on the Mahaweli River bank within the Katugastota town as part of an ongoing project which is in close proximity to the Katugastota Hospital. Part of the MRH coffee requirement is obtained from an institute that collects coffee beans from local cultivators and is processed as per the requirement of the hotel in order to support our own community.

Sustainability at MRH:

Sustainable measures implemented to 'green' MRH ensure that the hotel attains high standards of environmental consciousness in both front-end and back-end processes. This is done via the introduction of the Green Directory in maintaining a higher standard of environmental consciousness.

Eco projects:

Initiatives undertaken by MRH in the field of conservation and raising awareness on the environment are in progress. MRH continues to maintain the plants that were planted in the past years by our Green Team members during Tree Planting campaigns in a bid to reduce the effects of CO2 emissions and to spread the message of importance in protecting our environment. We use the compost from our own garden to maintains trees planted at different instances on special days in our own premises. MRH has re-constructed the river bank surrounding the hotel with the intention of protecting the buildings and minimizing soil erosion. MRH maintains the garden beneath the Katugastota hospital. MRH has also signed up with Eco Team - Sri Lanka in promoting Eco Tourism in Kandy.

Humanitarian projects:

Consists of all the short-term measures undertaken at MRH to assist the neighboring communities. Ongoing programs are arranged for donations in kind - to Rural schools, Children's homes, Elders homes and Hospitals. Assistance is given for projects on re-construction of houses of our own staff. Health aid is given to our staff and children of our staff other than the undertaking of cleaning up the river done constantly.

'Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints.' - Chief Seattle